

MEDIA RELEASE

**Illawarra recycling project to save one million litres
of drinking water a day**

Monday 1 June 2009

NSW Water Minister Phil Costa believes the Illawarra has cemented its place as one of Australia's leading waterwise regions, with the official opening of another major recycled water project that will save one million litres of drinking water every day.

Mr Costa was joined today by the Minister for the Illawarra, David Campbell and the Member for Wollongong, Noreen Hay, to inspect the Wollongong Stage 2 Recycled Water Scheme at Port Kembla Coal Terminal.

"Once again the Illawarra has demonstrated their commitment to saving water by supporting a sustainable recycling scheme that will save around 360 million litres of drinking water every year," said Mr Costa.

"The \$4.7 million project will service the Port Kembla Coal Terminal and Wollongong Golf Club. In the coming months the scheme will be further expanded allowing Wollongong City Council to irrigate JJ Kelly Park, including the soccer and rugby fields.

"High-quality, filtered and disinfected recycled water will be distributed via new pipelines from the Wollongong Recycling Plant.

"By treating the wastewater with a combination of ultraviolet disinfection and chlorination, it can be used by business, industry and irrigation for non-drinking purposes.

"The NSW Government is pleased to support this project through the Climate Change Fund," he said.

Wollongong MP Noreen Hay congratulated the Port Kembla Coal Terminal and the Wollongong Golf Course for making the move to recycled water.

"The Port Kembla Coal Terminal plays a vital role in the local community by providing jobs and economic activity," said Ms Hay.

"This is a case of local industry stepping up to the plate by using massive amounts of recycled water to reduce demand on our precious drinking supply.

"Similarly, the Golf Club will be able to provide a better recreation facility for the community while saving millions of litres of water."

Minister for the Illawarra David Campbell said water conservation initiatives had received a warm reception across the entire region.

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“Families, businesses and industry in the Illawarra are all doing their bit to make our water supply go further,” Mr Campbell said.

“Illawarra households use the least amount of water compared to the rest of Greater Sydney.

“In addition to this fantastic new recycled water scheme, we already have one of the largest industrial water recycling projects in Australia servicing BlueScope Steel.”

Mr Costa said recycling projects like those in the Illawarra form part of the NSW Government’s Metropolitan Water Plan.

“Through the Metropolitan Water Plan we are using four key elements – dams, desalination, recycling and water efficiencies – to secure water supply for Greater Sydney,” said Mr Costa.

“By 2015, recycling will provide about 12% of our water needs,” he added.

More information on water recycling in the Illawarra, including a fact sheet, is available from Sydney Water by visiting www.sydneywater.com.au